

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 1-7 are cancelled and claims 8-17 are added to clarify the claims. This leaves claims 8-17 pending in the application, with claims 8 and 17 being independent.

Substitute Specification

The specification is revised to eliminate grammatical and idiomatic errors in the originally presented specification. The number and nature of the changes made in the specification would render it difficult to consider the case and to arrange the papers for printing or copying. Thus, the substitute specification will facilitate processing of the application. The substitute specification includes no "new matter". Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 608.01(q), voluntarily filed, substitute specifications under these circumstances should normally be accepted. A marked-up copy of the original specification is appended hereto.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Original claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These claims have been rewritten to avoid each of the objections raised in the Office Action. All terminology is clear. The terminology alleged to be unclear is omitted or revised.

Accordingly, the pending claims are definite and comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

New claim 8 covers a process for producing a foamed part having at least one adhesive closing part 1 with adhesive closing elements 2. The method comprises forming a one-piece, unitary adhesive closing part, placing the adhesive closing part in a foam injection mold 4, and injecting molding material into the mold to produce the foamed part. The adhesive closing part includes a base with adhesive elements extending from one of its surfaces. The base has variable edge portions 5 free of adhesive elements such that the base forms a foam retaining cover 3 projecting laterally beyond an area of the base supporting the adhesive elements. The cover has ferromagnetic components formed as an integral part of it. The adhesive closing part is placed in the foam mold such that the free ends of the adhesive elements are arranged substantially in one plane with the edge portions of the adhesive closing part and in separable contact with the foam injection mold. The adhesive closing part is releasably retained in place in the foam injecting mold by a retaining mechanism 6.

Claim 17 covers an adhesive closing part 1 for use in a process for producing a foamed part with the adhesive closing part thereon. The closing part comprises a cover 3 and adhesive elements 2. The cover has edge portions 5 and ferromagnetic properties as an integral part thereof. The edge portions have a mold engaging surface on a first side of said cover. The adhesive elements extend from the first side of the cover between the edge portions, with the edge portions being free of said adhesive elements. The adhesive elements have free ends substantially coplanar with the mold engaging surface of the edge portions of the cover. The adhesive elements are formed unitarily as one piece with the cover.

By performing the method and forming the adhesive closing part in this manner, the mounting of the adhesive closing part in the mold to avoid contamination of the adhesive parts by the foamed material is simplified and made more cost effective. Since the adhesive closing part protects itself from the contamination by providing its own cover, no additional covers are necessary. The molding process is simplified and facilitated by the omission of parts that need to be removed to expose the adhesive elements for use. The secure connection of the edge portions to the mold provide an effective seal against infiltration of the molding material. Since the free ends of the adhesive elements are coplanar with the mold engaging surfaces of the edge portions, the adhesive closing part can be suitably mounted in the mold without forming a recess in the mold. Rather, with the method of the present claimed invention and with the adhesive closing part of the present claimed invention, the closing part can be attached to a flat, planar surface of the mold, i.e., a mold surface without a groove or recess to receive the adhesive elements. The omission of the groove or recess facilitates cleaning of the mold for expediting reuse of the mold.

Previously submitted claims 1-7 stand rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,673,542 to Wigner. The Wigner patent is cited for disclosing a process of foam molding with a fastener strip assembly 30 or 31. The fastener strip means 31 includes an elongated cloth backing strip 33 secured to a plastic strip 34 having a multiplicity of hooks 34a. Hooks 34a are formed integral with one side with plastic strip 34. A thin plastic liner 50 is provided on the fastener strip assembly 31 to cover the hooks 34a. Liner 50 is adhesively adhered to backing 33 by adhesive 65 to isolate the fastener strip and hooks. A thin steel strip 52 is provided between backing 33 and strip 34 for interacting with mold magnets 46. In this

manner, the Wigner fastener strip includes four separate parts that must be connected, i.e., fastener strip 34, liner 50, backing 33 and steel strip 52.

Additionally, as clearly illustrated in Figs. 4-6 of the Wigner patent, a recess 44 is provided in the Wigner mold 40 to receive hooks 34a. In this manner, the free ends of the Wigner hooks 34a are not coplanar with the adjacent surface of the base of strip 34, or the adjacent surface of backing 33.

Claims 1 and 8 are patentably distinguishable over the Wigner patent since the Wigner patent does not anticipate or render obvious a one-piece, unitary adhesive closing part with a base or cover and adhesive closing elements, edge portions being free of closing elements and having a mold engaging surface coplanar with the free ends of the adhesive elements. Additionally, the steel strip does not form a ferromagnetic component which is formed as an integral part of the one piece, unitary adhesive closing part.

The Wigner liner 50 does not satisfy any of the claim limitations since it does not have the adhesive elements extending from it. Additionally, the fastener strip 34 has its fastener elements extending from the entire width of the element, and thus, does not have edge portions free of adhesive elements, and does not have edge portions which are coplanar with the free ends of the adhesive elements.

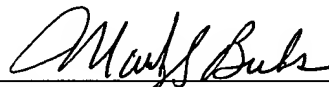
Accordingly, claims 8 and 17 are patentably distinguishable over the Wigner patent. None of the other cited patents cure the deficiencies in the Wigner patent.

Claims 9-16, being dependent upon claim 8, are also allowable for the above reasons. Moreover, these dependent claims recite additional features further distinguishing them over the cited patents. Specifically, the embedded ferromagnetic components of claim 9, the use of

ferromagnetic components in a layer of claim 10, the cooperation with the retaining elements in the foam injecting mold generating magnetic fields of claim 11, the use of edge portions extending along two lengthwise edges of the adhesive closing part of claim 12, the sol-gel process of claim 13, the use of adhesive base material of claim 14, the use of permanent magnets of claim 15, and the use of the materials of claim 16 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited patents, particularly within the overall claimed combination.

In view of the foregoing, claims 8-17 are allowable. Prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark S. Bicks", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark S. Bicks
Reg. No. 28,770

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-9076

Dated: April 22, 2003